

# My Lady's Pearls

**H**OWEVER many diamonds the lady of wealth may possess to deck her fingers, ears and neck, she is always roused to covetousness by the sight of pearls. There is something alluring in the sight of a rope or a collar of pearls around a white neck, and they are to most women the most desirable jewel of all. But they must be large or in quantity and they are, if good, costly in the extreme. The small pearls one sees—seed pearls—are cheap, but still set about a large diamond in a ring they seem to improve the diamond, and at the same time to derive some of its virtue from their neighborhood.

The pearl is all the more sought after because, unlike other precious stones, no amount of artificial treatment, such as cutting or polishing, can enhance its beauties. Nature's workmanship must be perfect and untouched and the pearl comes to you exactly as it emerges from the oyster. On the other hand, it has this disadvantage. It is liable to discoloration and the only way is to give it a rest from too much contact with the skin. Still that is not the only stone which suffers discoloration. Was it not the famous necklace of Marie Antoinette, preserved in a guarded case in a museum, which after years of nonuse began to lose color and had to be worn at intervals in order to give it its pristine beauty?

The value of the pearl is comparable with that of the most costly gems. Its price varies with its size, form and general beauty of appearance. A pearl of the first water must have symmetrical form, a smooth surface, be free from all blemishes or fractures, be translucent, and have a fine white color and a perfect luster; and it so happens that it is rare to get this combination. The perfect shape is spherical, egg shaped or pear shaped. The perfect color is a silvery milk white, but there are yellowish pearls much esteemed in India and China.

It is not generally known, however, that there are pearls which in color are red-brown, bronze, garnet red, rose red, pale blue, greenish white, violet and purple. But most curious of all is the black pearl, which on account of its hardness is much sought after. When it is of a beautiful and uniform color and of a perfect form, it is worth almost as much as pearls of the purest white.

The price of a string of perfectly matched pearls is much more in proportion than that of a single pearl, for it may take years to get together a collection of pearls which are alike in size, shape and quality. A string of yellowish Indian pearls costs \$20,000, of white \$25,000, of black Pacific pearls \$30,000, and even then you could not think that your string was anyway unique.

To seek a unique pearl one must go to the Hope collection, where there is one almost as large as a hen's egg, almost but not quite faultless, which is valued at \$75,000—a pearl of 454 carats. Again, there is a much smaller one of 27 5-16 carats among the French crown jewels which is valued at \$40,000.

There are other pearls, however, of distorted shape, called baroque pearls, and of these the most famous is the great Southern Cross, which is formed of nine beautiful pure white lustrous pearls, naturally formed in the shape of a cross, one inch in length, for which your offer would start at \$50,000 if you wished to buy it.

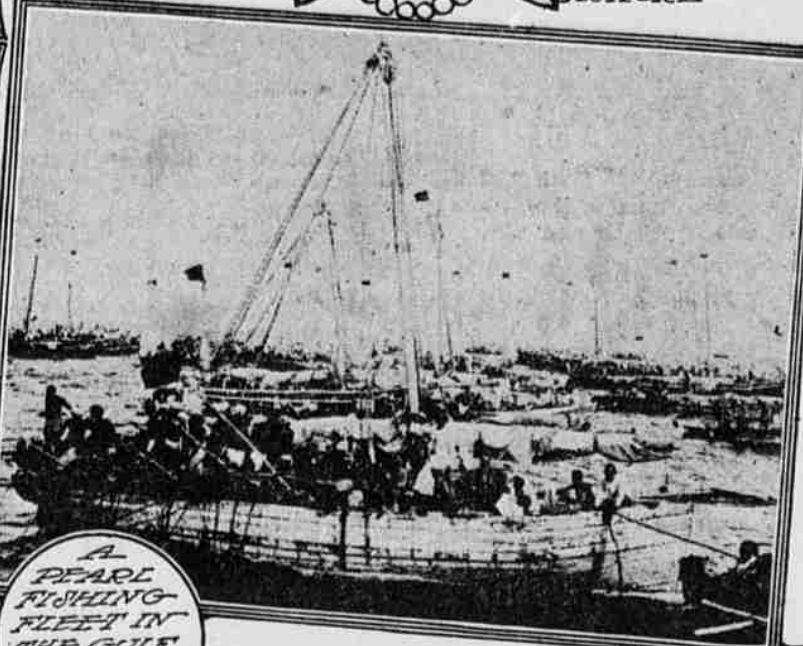
To supply the world of women with pearls, the Ceylon government administration yearly proclaims a "fishery," determining whether or not it should be held by examination and a sample catch from the government banks. Then if the marine biologist who is in charge declares that the number of oysters warrants a fishery, the news flies like lightning through the east and the army of pearl divers, coolies, merchants, pearl buyers and speculators move as fast as they can to the Gulf of Manar—the ornate and oriental "Sea Abounding in Pearls." Almost as if by magic a town of 40,000 inhabitants arises out of the sand. There is no magic about it, for the houses of the town are easily built. A rough framework of tree branches is formed and over it as roof and walls are put the mats known as caddan—formed of the woven leaves of the cocoanut or date palm. But there are also more pretentious buildings erected for the use of the government officials, residency, postoffice, hospital, court house, while there are streets, lanes, street lamps, all the conveniences of a proper town.

The aristocrats of the town, outside of the officials, are the divers, and they disdain to do anything but dive, having their own servants, who attend to the ropes and keep an eye on the oysters brought up.

Each morning the fishing fleet sets out, some 300 odd vessels, some of them carrying as many as 30 divers, their servants, sailors and hangers-on. When the fishing ground is reached the diver takes his basket, draws a long breath, steps on to the heavy stone hung by a rope, and is plunged

Photograph by UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD, N.Y.

BRINGING A CATCH OF OYSTERS ASHORE



A PEARL FISHING FLEET IN THE GULF OF MANAR



THE LOTTERY OF CHANCE, AUCTIONING THE OYSTERS

by his attendant to the bottom, seven or eight fathoms below. Filling his basket rapidly, he is drawn up and repeats the operation as often as he can. About two in the afternoon the government gunboat fires a gun and the fleet sets sail back. As there are no wharves, the oysters are carried on shore and deposited in the "kottu" by the strong porters. As soon as the shells are deposited they are counted, two-thirds going to the government as their share, the other one-third going to the boat which brings them in. At sunset the shells are auctioned by the thousand, and there is fierce competition, for who knows what the lottery of chance may bring them in pearls. The oysters brought are then removed apart by each buyer and placed in his compound, where they are carefully guarded till the sun beats upon them, putrefaction sets in and the oyster begins to disgorge its treasure. Then the malodorous contents of the shell are washed in vats and the residue yields—my lady's pearls.

## WOE OF HINDOO WOMEN

When a Buddhist prays he implores his god that when he dies he shall not be cursed by being born again as a woman or as vermin. That is the attitude of the native men of India toward women and against which the missionaries in the Orient are directing all their energy.

Dr. Eleanor Stephenson, a Brooklyn woman who has been practicing medicine in India for three years and who will return to her work there soon, makes an appeal to American women to go out there, the New York Evening Telegram says.

"I want the women here to realize what it means to be born in America," she said recently. "To be born where a woman is the backbone of the man, his strength and help in every way! Why, out in Ahmednagar, where my work is, a woman is no more than an animal. She is for the purpose of raising children and that is all. A man thinks more of his cow—if he is lucky enough to have one—than he does of his wife.

"A Hindoo husband will let his wife die before he will call in a man to give her medical or surgical treatment. That shows the need for women physicians in the Orient."

In Ahmednagar, which is an inland plateau about a hundred miles from Bombay, there are two physicians, Dr. Ruth Hume and Dr. Stephenson, and one American trained nurse, Miss Johnson. Under Miss Johnson there are 14 native women who have had some slight training and these help with the nursing. In the mission hospital which this handful of women run 15,000 people were treated last year, an average of 41 a day. These folk have come from a radius of about 50 miles, though some special cases have come as far as 300 miles.

The Rev. Alden H. Clark, who is an educational missionary at the same place as Dr. Ste-

phenson, gives some interesting figures about the number of nurses and doctors in the Orient. "There are probably," he says, "not more than 100 nurses in the entire missionary world and there 80,000,000 people in non-Christian lands who have no medical aid except missionary physicians. All Christendom has sent out only 689 medical missionaries, male or female, and this body maintains 248 hospitals, 97 leper asylums and 21 classes for native women.

"One physician who had no nurse to help him treated 18,000 cases in a year. So you see that the supply of trained medical assistance is woefully inadequate.

"In Calcutta, which has the best facilities in the Orient, three-fifths of the population die without any doctor or other trained medical assistance in their final illness. In China there

is probably one American or European trained doctor to every million and a half of people. In the United States there are 160,000 physicians and 22,000 nurses, an average of one physician to every 550 people."

"Of course we do a great deal of actual nursing and that is most important," Dr. Stephenson says, "but another thing, which is even bigger, is this: We show women who have thought themselves wholly unloved that some one cares for them. They know that there is a very small money consideration given us and that what we do is done for love. So they love us.

"When I see woman physicians struggling for a living here and know what a field there is in India, I feel as though they must be told.

"The kind of work I have been doing is a terrific appeal to the sympathies. We have to respect caste, which makes nearly all of our cases long standing. One woman whom I treated came to me with her entire arm in a gangrenous condition. She had picked her finger seven months before, at the time of her husband's death. On account of her caste she could not so much as leave the house for the seven months, during which time septicemia set in and went up as far as her shoulder. I told her that her arm would have to be amputated. She refused absolutely to part with it, and died as a result.

"Another woman burned her knee and turned up at the hospital five months later with that part of her leg in terrible condition. The leg was cut off and the woman made a perfect recovery.

"I went many miles into the interior to see an injured woman. She had fallen down a well and was fearfully bruised all over. I found her lying on the floor grinding corn, every turn of her arm causing the most intense agony. She couldn't bear to have me even touch her, she was suffering so. I told her husband she had to be taken to the hospital or she would die and he asked who would cook the bread if she were gone. He refused to allow her to go. All I could do was to leave a little medicine."

Dr. Stephenson finds that the natives invariably prefer using ointments to clean dressings. Women come in large numbers to get ointments for raw sores where their husbands have beaten and cut them and they are full of gratitude to the doctor. She finds that those of high class are just as brutally treated and just as grateful as the lowest.

"Transmigration is one of the strongest beliefs in India," she says, "and on that account the people will not kill any animal, not even a flea. As a result the poor homes are overrun with bedbugs and other vermin, which spread all sorts of fevers and diseases.

"And another of their ideas is that we don't know anything about raising babies. Hindoo mothers, without exception, give opium to their babies to make them sleep while they work in the fields. As a result a large proportion of the little Hindoo babies die before they are a year old. Most of the work among the natives is surgical and the obstetric cases are the most interesting. This is because the natives have medicines of their own but know nothing of the use of the knife."

## NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Prune the roses.

Alfalfa is rich in protein.

Onions require a deep, rich mellow soil.

A hen cannot feed lice and make eggs at the same time.

Important garden crops for early planting are potatoes and strawberries.

Onions should be sown at the earliest moment the ground can be got in good condition.

Is not the gasoline engine an important factor in the problem of keeping the boy on the farm?

With recent years alfalfa has forged to the front as a forage plant in the United States with extraordinary rapidity.

The demand for flaxseed meal has been greater than ever before, even in spite of the high price received this season.

Potatoes and turnips are cooked for poultry the same as they would be for the table except that they are cooked without being pared.

Do not place eggs under the turkey hens the first days she shows signs of broodiness. Better wait awhile because she is apt to change her mind.

If cleaning the stable is your hardest chore, try the litter carrier. You will be surprised to find that such a labor saver can be had for so little money.

The equipment needed for a farm at the present time is an item to be considered; the farmer now must purchase and employ many high priced implements.

The Idaho experiment station has found that scalelice at the strength of 1:15 kills San Jose scale as well as any spray, but that it is not effective when used 1:20.

After the potato crop is gathered, which will not be later than August 10, if early sorts have been planted, sow crimson clover, cowpeas, soy beans or hairy vetch.

In grading the surplus poultry and dividing it into lots for fattening, farmers having pure-bred flocks will find an occasional cockerel which it seems a pity to send to the slaughtering pen.

The popular notion that gapes come from lice had its origin doubtless in the fact that the chick, weakened by the presence of these pests, was the one to succumb to an attack of the gapeworms.

Farmers of today are taking greater interest in all matters pertaining to agricultural affairs than ever before, and it is merely a question of time until the work that has begun will spread until the whole lump is leavened.

For hens who are inclined to set at this time, provide a slat coop, large as possible, in a light, cool place and confine the hen with a male. Feed and water them well and ordinarily two days confinement will cure them of the inclination to set.

The development of the milk-producing quality in a cow is best judged by an examination of the milk veins when she is fresh. The milk veins are blood vessels that carry blood, not milk. These veins show the large amount of blood carried by the milk glands.

The manure from silage fed steers is free from weed unless they are found in the bedding material. In feeding clover hay the weeds have a good way of spreading. The same amount of silage can be stored in less space and it saves hauling hay or fodder in bad weather.

Rhubarb requires a deep, rich, mellow soil. In fact, the soil cannot be too rich. The earliest yield is from a warm, sandy loam. The longest stalks and the greatest number may be grown on a deep, rich clay loam. The ground should be plowed twice and harrowed and rolled to get it in good order.

Don't fool with the sick fowls too long. Medicine is sometimes an effective treatment for certain classes of ailments of fowls, but as a rule care and feeding will do more to correct the trouble than all the medicine that can be bottled up. Sometimes the hatchet is the only practical remedy to give.

## HINDUS ALARMED AND ASTIR

Spread of Christianity Threatens Whole Structure of Hinduism With Overthrow.

Hinduism is awakening to the fact that if the great sub-strata of Hindu society known as the depressed classes be raised by Christianity, the whole structure of Hinduism is threatened with overthrow. This awakening is being followed by efforts in various parts for the improvement of these poor people. The latest is a movement in Ahmedabad. In that city, on August 29, a meeting was held at which the attendance of the depressed classes was encouraged and in which they were allowed to sit beside caste people. Resolutions were passed for the formation of a Central Hindu association, which should have for its objects the raising of the depressed classes and their readmission into Hinduism after being converts to foreign faiths. As to the means to be adopted for realizing these objects, the following suggestions were made: (a) Starting schools, clubs and associations; (b) establishing preaching missions; (c) publishing papers, periodicals, magazines and leaflets; (d) adopting such other means as may be conducive to the above objects.

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### Futile Dissension.

"So you and your husband are always quarreling?" said the family lawyer.

"Yes," answered the young woman.

"What do you quarrel about?"

"I forget the subject of the first quarrel. But we have been quarreling ever since over who was to blame for it."

### An Ungentlemanly Reply.

"Once you called me the light of your existence."

"Yes, I know it. That was before I had any idea you were going to become the dead weight of it."

There's more strength in a bowl of

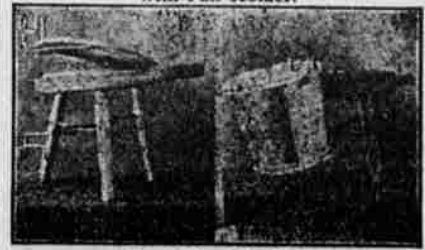
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